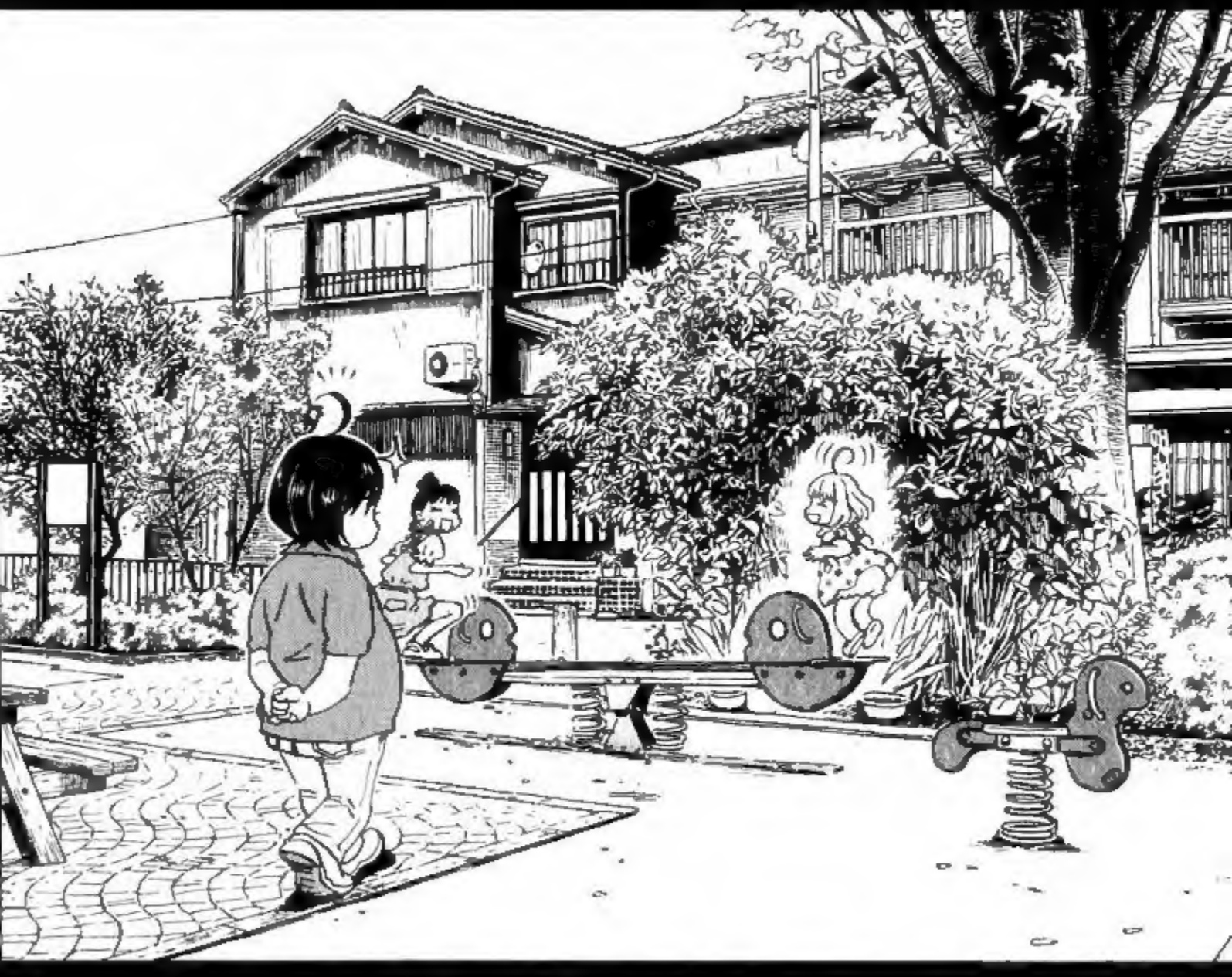
Chapter 86

New Year



January of the next year.
MM
MUUUH
1
SFX: GUNINI MUMUU...
It's almost time for my exams.
REI-CHAN.
NOTEBOOK
HEY...
HEY, UM...

Yes, I decided that my first choice

would be the school Rei-chan goes to,

Komahashi Private High School.

This way

he can give me help with studying.

A-
About where do you think I should draw it?
WHY DON'T YOU START BY DRAWING ONE IN THE LONELIEST LOOKING SPOT?
SFX: HOKA HOKA (WARMTH)

The first time
—that I said 'I want to go to Hashi High' to Rei-chan.
For some reason, Rei-chan was really, really happy.
HUUUUH?
You, Hina-chan? Hashi High?
HUUUUHH?
Huh?! Um... I still don't know if I'll get in yet... Er, um... I haven't gone to cram school or anything either...
The next day, he came to our house carrying a 'study plan.'
We have plenty of time. If we start preparing now, I'm sure you'll be okay!!
SFX: KIRIH]GUIH
After that, he started watching over my studies several times a week after we ate dinner.
I-
I THINK I'M SORT OF STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF IT... YEAH.
I THINK I MIGHT BE GETTING IT!
YEAH, YOU ARE.
MATH IS SOMETHING YOU CAN ONLY GET A GRASP OF BY SOLVING LOTS AND LOTS OF PROBLEMS.

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Hel-looo!
Is there anyone in here that wants to indulge?!
SFX: CHIRA (GLANCE)
NEZOUY NEZOUY
HAHH !!
IS... IS THIS...
DINNER I'M SENSING?!
SFX: PIIINN
CALM DOWN. JUST SOLVE THEM ONE AT A TIME AND YOU'LL BE OKAY.
Okay.
I'll do my best!
The problems became so easy to understand
because Rei-kun tutored me patiently. I was really thankful.
He-yup
BA-BAAAN
カチャカチャ
I WANT TO INDULGE!
YES!! YES!
HUH?!
THAT ...IS IT...?
Indulge?
SFX: GATAH
ほわわん
SFX: KACHA KACHA HOWAWAAN
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SFX: AMAAMA~ BUH BUH HOWAAN

AAAHH!
TH-THAT'S THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY'S LEGENDARY 'INDULGENCE UDON'!!
Here you are!
Oagesan and tempura both as toppings!!
This fluffy, melting tempura,
Having one delicious thing right next to another delicious thinnnng!!
It makes me so happyyy!
and right next to it is this swee~t oagesan soaking in sizzly broth!!
IT... IT'S REALLY GOOD!
Indulgence Udon?
SFX: JIIIN...
T/N: OAGESAN IS FRIED BEAN CURD.
'INDULGENCE UDON'.
HU HU HU
SHE INVENTED THIS CRAZY IDEA OF 'PUTTING IN BOTH'!! —— AND THAT'S WHERE WE GET THE NAME
—SO, IN ORDER TO RELIEVE HER DAUGHTER OF HER WORRIES,
I can't choose!
Okay, do you want kitsune udon or tempura udon?
Akari in 3rd Year of middle school

T/N: KITSUNE UDON IS UDON WITH OAGESAN AS THE MAIN TOPPING.

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MM...
I LOVE IT! IT'S SO TASTY!
SO I THOUGHT
I JUST HAD TO MAKE HINA SOME FOR HER EXAMS, TOO.
Eating it would always cheer me up.
Mom would make this for me a lot when I had exams.
OKAY.
THANK YOU, GOOD NIGHT!!
I LEFT THE HEAT IN THE BATH ON, SO WHEN YOU'RE DONE, FEEL FREE.
OKAY,
HOW ABOUT ONE MORE PUSH?

to just say 'I want to go there' out loud.
I didn't know if it would be selfish
When I first thought I'd like to go the the private high school that Rei-chan goes to

That summer, we set up a new stand
and I realized again.
Black Pearl Tapioca
Black Pearl Tapioca
Rice Flour
Rice Flour

just how many sweets is Ojii-chan going to have to make?
just how much time, effort, and money did it take?
To make these little sweet candies that cost 250 yen each,
250円
250円
On the day he cooked the anko, Ojii-chan stood in front of the pot since dawn.
— And in order for me to go off to school,
How much work for each of them is left in his hands?

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Please, go.
Go to Komahashi High School.
HUH?
B-BUT...

YOU ALL WORKED REAL HARD THIS SUMMER TO RUN THE STAND.
WE DID GREAT, FROM CALCULATING THE COSTS TO MAKING AND SELLING THEM, ALL THE WAY UP TO THE POINT WE THREW IN THE TOWEL.
—SO THE ONE FUSSING OVER PEOPLE IS YOU.
YOU'RE THINKIN' IF YOUR GRANDPA'S THE ONE MAKIN' THE SWEETS,
HOW MUCH OF THE PROFIT IS GONNA BE LEFT?
!!

Here, this is plum syrup that Chiho-chan made!!
TOSHI
'KIDS DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.'
— IS NOT THE WAY I FEEL.
MONEY'S IMPOR-TANT.
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER
AND I'M IMPRESSED BY THE FACT THAT YOU REALIZED THAT.
— BUT HINA,
YOU CAN'T GO UNDERESTIMATING YOUR GRANDPA NOW.
THERE ARE PEOPLE AWAITING YOUR GRANDPA'S SWEETS!!
— SO I'M STILL RARING TO DO BATTLE OUT THERE.
SFX NYARI (GRIN) JYAKIIIN

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DID YOU JUST 'THINK IT'D BE FUN'?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
THAT ONE REASON IS PLENTY!
YOUR GRANDPA CARES MOST THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
Ojii-chan...
—BUT, UH, YOU KNOW...
YOUR SISTER AND I LOOKED INTO A FEW THINGS,
AND THAT KOMAHASHI HIGH SCHOOL THE KID'S GOING TO IS PRETTY HIGH-RANKING ACADEMICALLY.
ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
KYAAA!
I... I think so?
HRRH
SFX: GAKU GAKU... (SHAKING)

UM.
HEY, REI-CHAN?
IN THIS PROBLEM I'M ON...
I'll study hard
and go to that high school!!
— I'm going to work hard.
Really hard.
REI-CHA...
.....
.....

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When Rei-chan is solving shogi mating puzzles,
he get's so quiet, like it's completely absorbing him.
And that got me hooked so I was able to concentrate really hard.
Under that mysterious quietness, I opened the curtains,
and outside the window
the first snow of the year was falling.
Chapter 86 END

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3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 9

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